

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3, 6 and 9-12 remain in this application. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 13-22 are cancelled. By this amendment, no new matter has been added.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of Claims 2, 3, 6, and 9-12. In view of the cancellation of all other claims, this application is in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Also, Claims 1, 5, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Perkins, and Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perkins. In the interest of expediting allowance of this application, and without any acquiescence or admission as to the merits of the rejections, Applicant has cancelled these rejected claims. These grounds of rejection are therefore moot.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 2, 3, 6 and 9-12 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested, and a timely Notice of Allowability is solicited. If it would be helpful to placing this application in condition for allowance, Applicant encourages the Examiner to contact the undersigned counsel and conduct a telephonic interview.

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To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions the Commissioner for a two-month extension of time, extending to March 21, 2004, the period for response to the Office Action dated October 21, 2003. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0639.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian M. Berliner
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 34,549

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O'MELVENY & MYERS LLP
400 South Hope Street
Los Angeles, CA 90071-2899
Telephone: (213) 430-6000